

career Foreign Service officers who had absolutely nothing—nothing—to do with whatever decisions were made in Afghanistan, that is where the accountability is going to come from?

These are people who have committed their lives to serving the United States of America. They have committed their lives either in Republican or Democratic administrations. It doesn't matter. They carry out the mission of the United States and its foreign policy as dictated by the President and Congress. They had nothing—nothing—Sao Tome and Principe? The Congo? Somalia? Algeria? Lesotho? Cameroon? Vietnam?—to do with the decisions in Afghanistan. Yet they are the ones we are going to extract a pound of flesh of accountability from—on people who had absolutely nothing to do with the decisions on Afghanistan and who have committed their lives to the career Foreign Service. These aren't political nominees. These are career Foreign Service officers.

I heard my colleague talk about—that our enemies around the world are emboldened. Well, guess what. They are really going to be emboldened when we have no Ambassador to counter them in these countries, because they have gotten clear sailing. They can do whatever they want. They can talk to those heads of state.

There is no American Ambassador to go in and talk to that head of state and say: Mr. President or Mr. Prime Minister—whatever the title may be—don't make that choice. It would be a bad choice. We offer you a different alternative. We offer you a different set of principles, a different set of values—ones that would inure to the benefit of your country.

But no, there is no one from the United States of America who is going to be able to go into those countries and say any of that, because we are going to extract—when I say “we,” I should retract that. The Senator from Missouri wants to extract accountability on people who have done absolutely nothing as it relates to making these decisions.

When we have problems in this hemisphere with migration, I want my colleagues to know, who are objecting, that they will bear a significant part of the responsibility, because if we can't deal with the root causes to stop people from coming to our southern border, whether they be from Haiti or Central America or any other place, then we are going to continuously have a flow of people as they avoid disaster, civil conflict, authoritarian governments. But, if we had people in place to develop the plans and the programs and implement them so we could stop the flow and so we could create stability in Haiti—guess what—we are less likely to have people come to the southern border. But, no, we are going to extract accountability on people who have absolutely nothing to do with Afghanistan.

Not only is this shortsighted, but for those who stand on the Senate floor

and talk about the national security of the United States, this hurts the national security of the United States. It hurts the national interests of the United States.

So I hope that there will be a reflection. Maybe there are better targets to pick than career Foreign Service officers in countries that have no decision, no policymaking on any of these issues that my colleague has a problem with. Maybe there are better ones to pursue.

In the absence of that, I will tell you there is going to be a rude awakening. Mark my words. I have been doing foreign policy for 30 years between the House and the Senate. It will happen sooner than you think, and you will remember this moment and wish you hadn't objected to some of these people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

RUSSIA

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I have spoken throughout these last several days about how the Nord Stream 2 pipeline—the Biden-Putin pipeline—runs counter to everything that the Biden administration professes to stand for, and, indeed, what much of the Democratic Party has been insisting for the last half decade are the most important issues of the country.

We, of course, spent 4 years, during the Trump Presidency, listening to Democrats say, “Russia, Russia, Russia,” over and over and over again. It was a newfound discovery. Some of us are old enough to remember Barack Obama turning to MITT ROMNEY in the 2012 Presidential election when MITT ROMNEY was advocating for strength in dealing with Russia and for taking on Putin, and some of us remember Obama looking at MITT ROMNEY and saying:

[Mitt], the 1980s called. They want their foreign policy back.

That was in 2012, when the Democrats thought it was passe to stand up to Russia.

Then 2016 happened, and Donald Trump was elected President. Suddenly, the Democratic Party got religion. Suddenly, Russia was bad. Now, I thought Russia was bad before. I thought Russia was bad when Trump was President. And I think Russia is bad now. I don't like dictatorial thugs like Vladimir Putin, who is a KGB thug.

But, interestingly, for our friends on the Democratic side of the aisle, their outrage against Russia is situational. It applies only in the situation that a Republican is in the White House. When a Democrat is in the White House—when Joe Biden is there—suddenly, Putin is hunky-dory. Suddenly, Democrats don't have much of a problem with Joe Biden defying Federal law, ignoring Federal law, and giving a multibillion-dollar gift to Putin.

Suddenly, the Democrats have given all of these speeches on Russia, who passed CAATSA. I talked earlier about

CAATSA, the legislation that imposes mandatory sanctions on Russia to stop a President who refuses to impose those sanctions. Well, Joe Biden is in defiance of CAATSA. Do you see a single Democrat standing up, saying: Mr. President, obey CAATSA? No. They are whining that the deputy assistant under secretary of whatchamacallit has not been confirmed yesterday, and, clearly, the world is going to come to an end without a deputy assistant of whatchamacallit.

If our Democratic colleagues believed their rhetoric of the last 4 years, we would see Democrats stand up with me and say, “Joe Biden's multibillion-dollar gift to Putin is a mistake,” but they are not.

One of the ironies, in addition to the “Russia, Russia, Russia” thing—and the truth of the matter—is most of the Democrats never believed Russia, Russia, Russia. If you go back to the Soviet Union, if you go back to the Reagan administration, the Democrats had spent decades as apologists for Soviet Communists, as apologists for Russian dictators. But for 4 years, I have got to say that our Democratic colleagues can give a good speech. They sure sounded genuine when they said, “Russia, Russia, Russia.” But if they believed those words, then they would look at Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS, and they would say, “Russia, Russia, Russia.”

By the way, they didn't like Donald Trump's rhetoric on Russia, and by the way, I didn't like a lot of the things President Trump said on Russia. I wish his rhetoric had been stronger, but it is worth noting that Trump had the courage to call out Germany for Nord Stream 2. Trump had the courage to impose sanctions under the bipartisan sanctions legislation we passed into law. The Cruz-Shaheen legislation passed in 2019, and the second wave of the Cruz-Shaheen bipartisan legislation passed in 2020. President Trump imposed. What did Joe Biden do? Waived it. What did Joe Biden do? Ignored the law. What did Joe Biden do? He gave a multibillion-dollar gift to Putin.

So, if any Democrat meant a word they said about Russia, we have got to see them standing here. You will note the Democratic side of the floor is largely empty.

But not only is Joe Biden's rhetoric and the Democrats' rhetoric on Russia not matched by their action, but we also know that Biden's actions don't meet the Democrats' rhetoric on climate.

ENVIRONMENTALISM AND CLIMATE

Mr. President, what I want to address now is environmentalism and climate, which President Biden and the left tells us are existential issues.

There is nothing mattering more, they say, than climate change; that if we don't fight climate change, Nebraska is going to be underwater, they tell us. They say we need to follow the example of our European allies in